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28 February 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: White House Conference Convened by Presidential Assistant Charles Murphy, 25 February 1952, re: Use of Mutual Security Agency Funds under the Kersten Amendment

1. The subject meeting was attended by David Lloyd (Executive Office) and representatives from the following: Mutual Security Agency, Bureau of Budget, Displaced Persons Commission, Psychological Strategy Board staff, Department of State, Defense, CIA, Justice and Labor.

2. Mr. Berger, Mutual Security Agency, outlined his belief that no funds should be allocated under the Kersten Amendment pending submission of firm plans by Defense regarding escapee military elements. This position was based upon his interpretation of the Kersten Amendment.

3. Messrs. Gibson, O'Connor and Rosenfield (D. P. Commissioners) urged that MSA funds be made available at the earliest possible date for reception, care and use or resettlement of Iron Curtain escapees. It was Mr. Rosenfield's belief that preservation and development of cultural-political leadership through a chain of exile universities warrants urgent attention and MSA support. [redacted] activity as excellent but requiring expansion.

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4. [redacted] PSB staff, reviewed the PSB plan for overall care and resettlement of refugees [redacted]. It was noted that this plan, to be administered by State, has been awaiting action since 20 December for commitment of [redacted] in MSA funds under Kersten Amendment. [redacted] also advised that PSB is currently working on a second study focussed upon suggested escapee utilization projects: this will include the Rosenfield type proposals but principally consider military type utilization.

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5. Mr. Tim Hoopes, Office of the Secretary of Defense, advised that JCS is hoping to complete a plan by 1 March for military elements along the lines envisaged by Kersten. This must obtain Defense approval or disapproval, and thereafter, will be referred to PSB for consideration in the escapee-uses study.

6. Mr. Murphy

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6. Mr. Murphy and Mr. David Lloyd indicated belief that NSA should immediately allocate the [] funds requested for the PSB plan to assure satisfactory handling-resettlement of escapees. Speed in completing the PSB study regarding utilization of escapees was urged, especially concerning the use of escapees in military elements.

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7. [], DD/P Secretariat, requested the undersigned to represent CIA at the subject meeting. An oral report of the results was made to [] following its conclusion.

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[]
Deputy Chief
Psychological Staff Division

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